

SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING THE SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a semiconductor memory and a method for fabricating the same, and more particularly, it relates to a memory cell structure of a semiconductor memory using a high- κ film or a ferroelectric film.

 Recently, for multimedia equipment required to have a large memory capacity and a high data transfer rate, embedded-DRAM processes for combining DRAMs with a high
10 performance logic circuit has been practically employed.

 In conventional DRAM process, however, since it is necessary to perform high temperature annealing for forming a capacitor insulating film of a capacitor working as a memory capacitor, the impurity concentration profile of impurity diffusion layers of a transistor included in a high performance logic circuit can be disadvantageously degraded
15 through this high temperature annealing. Also, in process for merely a memory such as a DRAM or a FeRAM, high temperature annealing is preferably avoided for reducing the size of a memory cell transistor.

 Therefore, it is indispensable to develop a MIM (Metal-Insulator-Metal) capacitor using, as a capacitor insulating film of a memory capacitor, a high- κ film that can be
20 formed at a low temperature and can provide a fine memory cell. An example of the high- κ film is a dielectric film having a perovskite structure such as a BST ((BaSr)TiO₃) film. On the other hand, as a material for a metal electrode of the MIM capacitor, Pt with high oxidation resistance is generally regarded as a promising material. Also, dielectric films with the perovskite structure, such as a SBT (SrBi₂Ta₂O₉) film and a BTO
25 (Bi₄Ti₃O₁₂) film, are well known as ferroelectric films.

The conventional MIM capacitor serving as a memory capacitor has, however, the following problems:

When a contact hole is formed to reach a Pt electrode (upper electrode) provided on a capacitor insulating high- κ film, a reducing atmosphere and the like employed in forming a contact plug may harmfully affect the characteristic of the capacitor. In general, most of dielectric films are oxides, and hence, oxygen included in such a dielectric film may be lost due to the reducing atmosphere. In particular, when the capacitor insulating film is a high- κ film or a ferroelectric film, there is high possibility of the oxygen loss. Particularly in a dielectric film with the perovskite structure, the characteristic can be largely degraded due to the oxygen loss.

Furthermore, in fabrication of devices such as a DRAM that conventionally do not use a Pt electrode, it is difficult to use the existing facilities for, for example, forming a contact reaching a Pt electrode that is newly used, and hence, such a procedure need to be performed by using dedicated facilities. This is for the following reason: For example, in forming a contact hole connected to a Pt electrode through an interlayer insulating film, Pt is sputtered when the Pt electrode is exposed, and hence, Pt is adhered onto the walls and members within a chamber. If this chamber is used for another process without any treatment, the Pt enters an active region or the like of a transistor, which can harmfully affect the operation of the transistor.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the invention is providing a semiconductor memory including a MIM capacitor with a good characteristic and a method for fabricating the same by forming an interconnect layer connected not directly but indirectly to an upper electrode made from Pt or the like formed on a capacitor insulating film.

Another object of the invention is providing a semiconductor memory and a method for fabricating the same in which the fabrication cost can be lowered because no dedicated facilities are necessary.

The semiconductor memory of this invention includes a memory capacitor that is
5 formed on an insulating layer over a semiconductor substrate and includes a lower electrode, an upper electrode and a capacitor insulating film disposed between the lower electrode and the upper electrode; a capacitor insulating film extension and an upper electrode extension extending respectively from the capacitor insulating film and the upper electrode of the memory capacitor; a dummy conducting member including a portion
10 below the upper electrode extension and the capacitor insulating film extension; a conducting member in contact with side faces of the upper electrode extension and the capacitor insulating film extension and connected to the dummy conducting member; and an upper interconnect electrically connected to the dummy conducting member.

Thus, there is no need to directly connect the upper interconnect to the upper
15 electrode. Therefore, even when the upper electrode is made from Pt or the like, characteristic degradation derived from exposure of the capacitor insulating film to a reducing atmosphere can be prevented.

When the conducting member covers entire peripheral side faces of the upper electrode extension and the capacitor insulating film extension, more definite electrical
20 connection can be obtained.

The capacitor insulating film may be a high- κ film or a ferroelectric film.

When the semiconductor memory further includes a bit line formed below the memory capacitor with the insulating layer sandwiched therebetween; a local interconnect formed by using the same conductor film as that used for forming the bit line; and a
25 conducting plug for connecting the dummy lower electrode and the local interconnect to

each other through the insulating layer, a structure suitable to a memory of a capacitor over bit-line can be obtained by utilizing the conductor film used for forming the bit line.

The semiconductor memory can further include an isolation insulating film provided on the semiconductor substrate below the insulating layer; a memory cell transistor that is provided on the semiconductor substrate in a region surrounded with the isolation insulating film and includes a gate electrode and impurity diffusion layers formed in the semiconductor substrate on both sides of the gate electrode; a local interconnect provided on the isolation insulating film and formed by using the same conductor film as that used for forming the gate electrode; and a conducting plug connected to the local interconnect through the interlayer insulating film. Thus, a structure applicable to a memory of both a capacitor over bit-line and a capacitor under bit-line can be obtained by utilizing the conductor film (such as a polysilicon film) used for forming the gate electrode.

The semiconductor memory can further include a memory cell transistor that is provided on the semiconductor substrate and includes a gate electrode and impurity diffusion layers formed in the semiconductor substrate on both sides of the gate electrode; a local interconnect made from another impurity diffusion layer spaced from the impurity diffusion layers in the semiconductor substrate; and a conducting plug connected to the local interconnect through the insulating layer. Thus, a structure applicable to a memory of both a capacitor over bit-line and a capacitor under bit-line be obtained by utilizing the process for forming the source and drain regions.

When the dummy conducting member is provided in a region surrounded, on a side face thereof, with at least the insulating layer and the conducting member is in contact with the upper electrode extension and the dummy conducting member, the upper electrode extension and the upper interconnect can be electrically connected to each other without providing the dummy lower electrode. Therefore, the area of the semiconductor memory

can be reduced.

In the semiconductor memory, the dummy conducting member can be a local interconnect, and the upper interconnect can be in contact with the local interconnect.

5 In the semiconductor memory, the dummy conducting member can be a dummy plug, and the conducting member can be in contact with at least a part of a top face of the dummy plug.

10 In the semiconductor memory, the conducting member can be a conducting sidewall that is provided over side faces of the upper electrode extension and the capacitor insulating film extension and is in contact with at least a part of a top face of the dummy conducting member.

When the lower electrode, the capacitor insulating film and the upper electrode of the memory capacitor are in the shape of a cylinder, memory cells can be arranged at comparatively high density in the semiconductor memory.

15 The method of this invention for fabricating a semiconductor memory containing a memory capacitor including a lower electrode, an upper electrode and a capacitor insulating film disposed between the lower electrode and the upper electrode; a dummy conducting member electrically connected to the upper electrode; and an upper interconnect electrically connected to the dummy conducting member, includes the steps of
20 (a) forming the lower electrode by forming a first conductor film over an insulating layer on a semiconductor substrate and patterning the first conductor film; (b) forming a dielectric film covering the lower electrode; (c) forming a second conductor film covering the dielectric film; (d) forming, on the second conductor film, an etching mask covering a part of the lower electrode; (e) patterning the second conductor film and the dielectric film, whereby forming the capacitor insulating film and a capacitor insulating film extension
25 from the dielectric film and the upper electrode and an upper electrode extension from the

second conductor film; and (f) depositing a third conductor film on the substrate after the step (e) and patterning the third conductor film, whereby forming a conducting member in contact with side faces of the upper electrode extension and the capacitor insulating film extension and electrically connected to the dummy conducting member.

5 In this method, the upper electrode and the dummy conducting member are electrically connected to each other through the conducting member in the step (f). Therefore, there is no need to form a contact above the upper electrode, and hence, the characteristic degradation of the capacitor insulating film can be prevented. Also, the number of photolithography procedures and the like is not increased between the steps (a)
10 and (f) as compared with that in conventional technique.

 In the method for fabricating a semiconductor memory, the lower electrode and a dummy film spaced away from the lower electrode can be formed by patterning the first conductor film in the step (a), a dummy lower electrode can be formed as at least a part of the dummy conducting member by patterning the dummy film in any step between the step
15 (b) and the step (e), and the conducting member formed in the step (f) can be in contact with side faces of the upper electrode extension, the capacitor insulating film extension and the dummy lower electrode and covers at least a part of a portion above the upper electrode extension. Thus, the upper electrode and the upper interconnect can be electrically connected to each other through the conducting member and the dummy lower electrode.

20 The method for fabricating a semiconductor memory may further include, before the step (a), a step of forming at least a part of the dummy conducting member in a region surrounded, on a side face thereof, with the insulating layer, and the conducting member formed in the step (f) can be in contact with at least a part of a top face of the dummy conducting member. Thus, the upper electrode and the upper interconnect can be
25 electrically connected to each other through the conducting member and the dummy

conducting member.

In the method for fabricating a semiconductor memory, the conducting member formed in the step (f) can be a conductor film that is in contact with the side faces of the upper electrode extension and the capacitor insulating film extension and covers at least a part of a portion above the upper electrode extension.

In the method for fabricating a semiconductor memory, the conducting member formed in the step (f) can be a conducting sidewall in contact with the side faces of the upper electrode extension and the capacitor insulating film extension.

In the method for fabricating a semiconductor memory, the dielectric film may be a high- κ film or a ferroelectric film.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1A and 1B are respectively a cross-sectional view for partly showing a memory part and a plan view for showing an upper electrode and a connection conductor film included in a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 1 of the invention;

FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2C are cross-sectional views for showing procedures in a method for fabricating a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 1 of the invention;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view for partly showing a memory part included in a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 2 of the invention;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view for partly showing a memory part included in a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 3 of the invention;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view for partly showing a memory part included in a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 4 of the invention;

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view for partly showing a memory part included in a

semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 5 of the invention;

FIGS. 7A, 7B and 7C are cross-sectional views for showing procedures in a method for fabricating a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 5 of the invention;

5 FIGS. 8A and 8B are respectively a cross-sectional view for partly showing a memory part and a plan view for showing an upper electrode and a connection conductor film included in a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 6 of the invention;

10 FIGS. 9A, 9B and 9C are cross-sectional views for showing procedures in a method for fabricating a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 6 of the invention;

FIGS. 10A and 10B are respectively a cross-sectional view for partly showing a memory part and a plan view for showing an upper electrode and a conducting sidewall included in a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 7 of the invention; and

15 FIGS. 11A, 11B and 11C are cross-sectional views for showing procedures in a method for fabricating a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 7 of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

EMBODIMENT 1

20 In this embodiment, application of this invention to a DRAM memory cell structure in which bit lines are provided below a memory capacitor, namely, the so-called capacitor over bit-line, will be described.

FIGS. 1A and 1B are respectively a cross-sectional view for partly showing the structure of a memory part and a plan view for showing an upper electrode and a
25 connection conductor film included in a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment

1 of the invention. FIGS. 2A through 2C are cross-sectional views for showing
procedures in a method for fabricating the semiconductor memory of this embodiment.
Now, the structure of and the fabrication method for the semiconductor memory of this
embodiment will be successively described. In each drawing referred to in this
5 embodiment, the structure of the memory part alone is shown, but the semiconductor
memory of this embodiment is an embedded device in which a logic circuit element is
formed in a logic circuit part not shown. However, the structure of the logic circuit
element is not shown in the drawings because it is not directly concerned with the essence
of the invention.

10 – Structure of memory cell –

As shown in FIG. 1A, in a memory cell of a DRAM, that is, the semiconductor
memory of this embodiment, an isolation insulating film 11 surrounding an active region
and a source region 12 and a drain region 13 formed by introducing an n-type impurity are
formed with spaces therebetween in surface portions of a p-type Si substrate 10. A region
15 of the p-type Si substrate 10 sandwiched between the source region 12 and the drain region
13 functions as a channel region. Also, on the active region of the Si substrate 10, a gate
insulating film 14 of silicon oxide is formed between the source region 12 and the drain
region 13, a gate electrode 15 (corresponding to a part of a word line) of polysilicon is
formed on the gate insulating film 14, and an insulating sidewall 16 of silicon oxide is
20 formed on side faces of the gate electrode 15. The source region 12, the drain region 13,
the channel region, the gate insulating film 14 and the gate electrode 15 together form a
memory cell transistor TR. The gate electrodes 15 shown in the cross-sectional view of
FIG. 1A include those not functioning as the gate of a memory cell transistor TR, but such
gate electrodes 15 also function as the gates of memory cell transistors in cross-sections
25 different from that of FIG. 1A. These gate electrodes 15 extend along a direction

substantially perpendicular to the surface of the drawing so as to work as word lines of the DRAM.

Also, on the Si substrate **10**, a first interlayer insulating film **18** of BPSG is provided so as to cover the isolation insulating film **11**, the gate electrode **15** and the insulating sidewall **16**. A lower memory cell plug **20a** of polysilicon in contact with the source region **12** and a bit line plug **20b** in contact with the drain region **13** are formed through the first interlayer insulating film **18**. Furthermore, on the first interlayer insulating film **18**, a bit line **21a** of a W/Ti multilayer film connected to the bit line plug **20b** and a local interconnect **21b** made from the same W/Ti multilayer film as that used for the bit line **21a** are formed. Also on the first interlayer insulating film **18**, a second interlayer insulating film **22** of plasma TEOS is formed. An upper memory cell plug **30a** in contact with the lower memory cell plug **20a**, a dummy cell plug **30b** in contact with the local interconnect **21b** and an interconnect plug **30c** in contact with the local interconnect **21b** are formed through the second interlayer insulating film **22**.

On the second interlayer insulating film **22**, a lower barrier metal **32a** of TiAlN, a lower electrode **33a** of Pt formed thereon, a dummy lower barrier metal **32b** of TiAlN and a dummy lower electrode **33b** formed thereon are provided. Furthermore, a BST ((BaSr)TiO₃) film **34** covering the second interlayer insulating film **22**, the lower electrode **33a** and the dummy lower electrode **33b**, a Pt film **35** covering the BST film **34**, and an upper barrier metal **36** of TiAlN covering the Pt film **35** are formed.

A portion of the BST film **34** in contact with the lower electrode **33a** corresponds to a capacitor insulating film **34a**, and another portion of the BST film **34** in contact with the dummy lower electrode **33b** corresponds to a capacitor insulating film extension **34b**. Also, a portion of the Pt film **35** opposing the lower electrode **33a** corresponds to an upper electrode **35a**, and another portion of the Pt film **35** opposing the dummy lower electrode

33b corresponds to an upper electrode extension **35b**. The lower barrier metal **32a** and the lower electrode **33a** together form a storage node **SN** of the DRAM memory cell. Also, the lower electrode **33a**, the capacitor insulating film **34a** and the upper electrode **35a** together form a memory capacitor **MC**.

5 A connection conductor film **37** is formed over the top and side faces of the upper barrier metal **36**, the side face of the Pt film **35**, the side face of the BST film **34** and the top face of the second interlayer insulating film **22**. The connection conductor film **37** covers the whole top face of the upper barrier metal **36** and entirely surrounds the upper barrier metal **36**, the Pt film **35** and the BST film **34**. In particular, in a dummy cell
10 region **Rdc**, the connection conductor film **37** is formed on the side faces of the upper barrier metal **36**, the upper electrode extension **35b**, the capacitor insulating film extension **34b**, the dummy lower electrode **33b** and the dummy lower barrier metal **32b** as shown in FIG. **1B**. Owing to this structure, the connection conductor film **37** electrically connects the upper electrode extension **35b** and the dummy lower electrode **33b** to each other. The
15 connection conductor film **37** need not always cover the whole top face of the upper barrier metal **36**. However, when the connection conductor film **37** covers the whole top face of the upper barrier metal **36**, invasion of a reducing atmosphere can be suppressed.

Furthermore, a third interlayer insulating film **41** of plasma TEOS is formed on the second interlayer insulating film **22** and the connection conductor film **37**, and a Cu
20 interconnect **42** in contact with the interconnect plug **30c** is buried in the third interlayer insulating film **41**.

Specifically, the structure shown in FIGS. **1A** and **1B** includes an effective memory cell region **Rec** where the memory capacitor **MC**, the storage node **NC**, the memory cell transistor **TR** and the like are formed, and the dummy cell region **Rdc** where
25 the dummy lower electrode **33b**, the capacitor insulating film extension **34b**, the upper

electrode extension **35b**, the dummy cell plug **30b** and the like are formed.

As a characteristic of this embodiment, there is no plug in contact with the upper electrode **35a** or the upper electrode extension **35b**, and the upper electrode **35a** is connected to the upper interconnect (namely, the Cu interconnect **42**) through the connection conductor film **37**, the dummy lower electrode **33b**, the dummy plug **30b**, the interconnect plug **30c** and the local interconnect **21b**.

As shown in FIG. **1B**, the Pt film **35** used for forming the upper electrode **35a** and the upper barrier metal **36** is shared between a large number of memory cells, and a large number of lower electrodes **33a**, lower barrier metals **32a** and the dummy lower electrode **33b** and the dummy lower barrier metal **32b** are provided below the Pt film **35**. The dummy lower electrode **33b** and the dummy lower barrier metal **32b** are provided in plural in number below the Pt film **35**, but the upper electrode **35a**, the dummy lower electrode **33b** and the dummy lower barrier metal **32b** can be electrically connected to each other as far as at least one dummy lower electrode is provided below any portion of the Pt film **35**.

According to this embodiment, since there is no plug above the Pt film **35** used for forming the upper electrode and the upper barrier metal **36**, there is no need to form a contact hole for filling a plug in the third interlayer insulating film **41** and the connection conductor film **37**. Accordingly, the Pt film used for forming the upper electrode is never exposed in dry etching (plasma etching) for forming a contact hole reaching the upper electrode differently from the conventional technique. In other words, when an exposed Pt film is subjected to a reducing atmosphere, oxygen loss can be caused in a capacitor insulating film (in particular, a high- κ film) of BST or the like. Even when an upper barrier metal of TiAlN is formed on the Pt film as in this embodiment, the upper barrier metal has a small thickness and a contact hole probably reaches the upper electrode of Pt because over-etching is generally performed in etching for forming the contact hole.

Therefore, the upper barrier metal cannot be expected to prevent the oxygen loss in the capacitor insulating film. In contrast, according to this embodiment, since no contact hole is formed above the Pt film 35, the oxygen loss in the capacitor insulating film 34a derived from exposure of the Pt film to a reducing atmosphere can be definitely avoided.

Furthermore, since the Pt film 35 is never exposed for forming a contact hole in the interlayer insulating film, the etching for forming the contact holes can be performed in the same apparatus (such as a chamber) as that used in process for forming a logic circuit element. The formation of the lower electrode 33a, the dummy lower electrode 33b and the upper electrode 35a of Pt is performed in dedicated facilities for Pt film formation, and hence, it does not essentially contaminate the apparatus for forming the logic circuit element.

– Fabrication method for memory cell –

Next, the method for fabricating the memory cell of the semiconductor memory of this embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 2A through 2C.

In the procedure shown in FIG. 2A, the following processing is carried out: First, an isolation insulating film 11 surrounding an active region is formed in a p-type Si substrate 10, and a memory cell transistor TR composed of a source region 12, a drain region 13, a gate insulating film 14, a gate electrode 15 and an insulating sidewall 16 is formed on the active region. This memory cell transistor TR is formed through known procedures by using known techniques such as thermal oxidation, polysilicon film formation, patterning and ion injection.

Next, after depositing a BPSG film on the memory cell transistor TR, the BPSG film is subjected to annealing and planarization by CMP (chemical mechanical polishing) so as to form a first interlayer insulating film 18. Then, contact holes reaching the source region 12 and the drain region 13 are formed through the first interlayer insulating film 18.

Subsequently, an n-type polysilicon film is formed within the contact holes and on the first interlayer insulating film **18**, and the polysilicon film is planarized by the CMP so as to fill the contact holes with the polysilicon film. Thus, a lower memory cell plug **20a** and a bit line plug **20b** are formed.

5 Next, after depositing a W/Ti multilayer film on the first interlayer insulating film **18**, the W/Ti multilayer film is patterned by etching, so as to form a bit line **21a** connected to the bit line plug **20b** and a local interconnect **21b** that is not connected to any other member but isolated at this stage. In patterning the W film, the etching end point of the W film is determined by detecting time when the surface of the Ti film is exposed, and in
10 patterning the Ti film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining a high etching selectivity against the first memory cell plug **20a** of polysilicon.

 Then, after depositing a plasma TEOS film on the substrate, the plasma TEOS film is subjected to the planarization by the CMP (chemical mechanical polishing) so as to form a second interlayer insulating film **22**. Furthermore, contact holes reaching the
15 lower memory cell plug **20a** and two portions of the local interconnect **21b** are formed through the second interlayer insulating film **22**. Thereafter, a W film is formed within the contact holes and then planarized by the CMP, so as to fill the contact holes with the W film. Thus, an upper memory cell plug **30a** connected to the lower memory cell plug **20a**, and a dummy cell plug **30b** and an interconnect plug **30c** connected to the two portions of
20 the local interconnect **21b** are formed.

 Subsequently, a TiAlN film with a thickness of approximately 6 nm and a Pt film with a thickness of approximately 50 nm are successively deposited on the second interlayer insulating film **22**. The TiAlN film and the Pt film are patterned, so as to form, on the second interlayer insulating film **22**, a lower barrier metal **32a** connected to the
25 upper memory cell plug **30a** and a lower electrode **33a** of Pt formed thereon, and a dummy

lower barrier metal **32b** connected to the dummy cell plug **30b** and a dummy lower electrode **33b** formed thereon. In patterning the Pt film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining high etching selectivity against the underlying TiAlN film, and in patterning the TiAlN film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining etching selectivity sufficiently high for avoiding etching the underlying upper memory cell plug **30a** of W.

Next, in the procedure shown in FIG. **2B**, a BST ((BaSr)TiO₃) film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm, a Pt film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm, a TiAlN film with a thickness of approximately 6 nm and an NSG (nondoped silicated glass) film are successively deposited so as to cover the second interlayer insulating film **22**, the lower electrode **33a** and the dummy lower electrode **33b**. The NSG film is patterned into a hard mask **38**, and dry etching is performed by using the hard mask **38**. Thus, the TiAlN film, the Pt film and the BST film are successively patterned, so as to form an upper barrier metal **36** covering the effective memory cell region **Rec** and the dummy cell region **Rdc**, a Pt film **35** including an upper electrode **35a** and an upper electrode extension **35b**, and a BST film **34** including a capacitor insulating film **34a** and a capacitor insulating film extension **34b**. Thereafter, the hard mask **38** is selectively removed by using, for example, a diluted hydrofluoric acid solution.

Next, in the procedure shown in FIG. **2C**, a TiAlN film with a thickness of, for example, approximately 30 nm is formed on the substrate, and the TiAlN film is patterned by using a resist mask into a connection conductor film **37**. At this point, the connection conductor film **37** covers the top face of the upper barrier metal **36** in the effective memory cell region **Rec** and the dummy cell region **Rdc** on the substrate, covers the side faces of the upper barrier metal **36**, the Pt film **35**, the BST film **34**, the dummy lower electrode **33b** and the dummy lower barrier metal **32b** on the cross-sections in the dummy cell region

Rdc, and also covers a part of the second interlayer insulating film **22**.

Thereafter, a third interlayer insulating film **41** is deposited and planarized, a trench in contact with the interconnect plug **30c** is formed through the third interlayer insulating film **41** and a Cu interconnect **42** is buried in the trench (by the damascene method), resulting in obtaining the memory cell having the cross-sectional structure shown in FIG. **1A**.

In the fabrication method of this embodiment, a procedure for forming a contact above the Pt film **35** (and the upper barrier metal **36**) through the third interlayer insulating film **41** and the connection conductor film **37** can be avoided. In other words, in forming a Cu interconnect such as in forming a trench through the third interlayer insulating film **41**, annealing performed in a reducing atmosphere is generally employed. Accordingly, if a contact hole is formed above the upper barrier metal **36**, ammonia or the like passes through the thin upper barrier metal **36** to reach the Pt film **35**, or if the Pt film **35** is exposed as a result of over-etching or the like, ammonia or the like directly comes in contact with the Pt film **35**. Thus, ammonia or the like can reach the BST film **34** through the Pt film **35**. In such a case, oxygen included in the BST film **34** may be lost so as to cause the oxygen loss, resulting in degrading the characteristic of the capacitor insulating film **34a**. In contrast, when the procedure for forming a contact hole above the Pt film **35** is avoided as in this embodiment, the characteristic of the capacitor insulating film **34a** can be definitely prevented from degrading due to such a cause. In addition, since the top face and the side face of the upper barrier metal **36**, the side face of the upper electrode extension **35b**, the side face of the dummy lower electrode **33b** and the side face of the dummy lower barrier metal **32b** can be covered with the connection conductor film **37** formed as one layer, a definite connection structure can be obtained. Also, since the whole top face of the upper barrier metal **36** is covered with the connection conductor film

37, invasion of a reducing atmosphere can be suppressed.

The procedure for forming the Cu interconnect 42 corresponds to a conventional procedure for forming a plug in contact with an upper electrode, and the local interconnect 21b and the interconnect contact 30c can be formed by utilizing the procedures for forming the memory cell.

Although the upper electrode 35a and the lower electrode 33a are made from Pt and the upper barrier metal 36 and the connection conductor film 37 are made from TiAlN in this embodiment, these members may be made from other conducting materials with oxidation resistance. Also, although the capacitor insulating film 34a is made from BST, another high- κ film may be used instead. In particular, in the case where a dielectric film having a perovskite structure represented by ABO_3 is used, oxygen atoms can be easily lost through reduction, and hence, the present invention can be very effective in such a case.

Furthermore, it goes without saying that the present invention is applicable not only to an embedded device as in this embodiment but also to any semiconductor memory including a capacitor using a metal electrode, such as a generally used DRAM or FeRAM.

EMBODIMENT 2

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view for partly showing the structure of a memory part of a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 2.

As shown in FIG. 3, the structure of the memory part of this embodiment is different from that of Embodiment 1 in that the local interconnect 21b of the W/Ti film, the dummy cell plug 30b, the dummy lower barrier metal 32b and the dummy lower electrode 33b of Embodiment 1 are not formed and that a local interconnect 23 of W is filled within a trench formed in the second interlayer insulating film 22. The local interconnect 23 is formed simultaneously with the upper memory cell plug 30a. The other members of this semiconductor memory are the same as those shown in FIG. 1A, and like reference

numerals are used to refer to like members shown in FIG. 1A.

In this embodiment, the upper electrode 35a and the Cu interconnect 42 are electrically connected to each other through the local interconnect 23 of W and the connection conductor film 37. Also in this embodiment, there is no need to form a contact hole above the Pt film 35 used for forming the upper electrode 35a (and the upper barrier metal 36) through the third interlayer insulating film 41. Accordingly, the characteristic degradation of the capacitor insulating film 34a can be prevented and dedicated facilities for the memory cell formation are not necessary in this embodiment similarly to Embodiment 1.

In addition, since there is no need to form a dummy lower electrode in this embodiment, the area occupied by the memory part can be advantageously reduced as compared with that in Embodiment 1.

EMBODIMENT 3

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view for partly showing the structure of a memory part of a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 3 of the invention.

As shown in FIG. 4, the structure of the memory part of this embodiment is different from that of Embodiment 1 in that the local interconnect 21b of the W/Ti film of Embodiment 1 is replaced with a local interconnect 24 of polysilicon formed on the isolation insulating film 11, and that a lower dummy cell plug 20c in contact with the local interconnect 24 and a lower interconnect plug 20d in contact with the local interconnect 24 are formed through the first interlayer insulating film 18. In addition, the dummy cell plug 30b is connected to the lower dummy cell plug 20c and the interconnect plug 30c is connected to the lower interconnect plug 20d in this embodiment. The local interconnect 24 is formed simultaneously with the gate electrode 15. The other members are the same as those shown in FIG. 1A, and like reference numerals are used to refer to like members

shown in FIG. 1A.

In this embodiment, the upper electrode 35a and the Cu interconnect 42 are electrically connected to each other through the connection conductor film 37, the dummy lower electrode 33b, the dummy lower barrier metal 32b, the dummy cell plug 30b, the lower dummy cell plug 20c, the local interconnect 24, the lower interconnect plug 20d and the interconnect plug 30c. Also in this embodiment, there is no need to form a contact hole above the Pt film 35 used for forming the upper electrode 35a (and the upper barrier metal 36) through the third interlayer insulating film 41. Accordingly, the characteristic degradation of the capacitor insulating film 34a can be prevented and dedicated facilities for the memory cell formation are not necessary in this embodiment similarly to Embodiment 1.

EMBODIMENT 4:

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view for partly showing the structure of a memory part of a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 4 of the invention.

As shown in FIG. 5, the structure of the memory part of this embodiment is different from that of Embodiment 1 in that the local interconnect 21b of the W/Ti film of Embodiment 1 is replaced with a local interconnect 25 made from an impurity diffusion layer formed in the Si substrate 10, and that a lower dummy cell plug 20c in contact with the local interconnect 25 and a lower interconnect plug 20d in contact with the local interconnect 25 are formed through the first interlayer insulating film 18. The dummy cell plug 30b is connected to the lower dummy cell plug 20c and the interconnect plug 30c is connected to the lower interconnect plug 20d in this embodiment. The local interconnect 25 is formed simultaneously with the source and drain regions 12 and 13. The other members are the same as those shown in FIG. 1A, and like reference numerals are used to refer to like members shown in FIG. 1A.

In this embodiment, the upper electrode 35a and the Cu interconnect 42 are electrically connected to each other through the connection conductor film 37, the dummy lower electrode 33b, the dummy lower barrier metal 32b, the dummy cell plug 30b, the lower dummy cell plug 20c, the local interconnect 25, the lower interconnect plug 20d and the interconnect plug 30c. Also in this embodiment, there is no need to form a contact hole above the Pt film 35 used for forming the upper electrode 35a (and the upper barrier metal 36) through the third interlayer insulating film 41. Accordingly, the characteristic degradation of the capacitor insulating film 34a can be prevented and dedicated facilities for the memory cell formation are not necessary in this embodiment similarly to Embodiment 1.

EMBODIMENT 5

In each of Embodiments 1 through 4 described above, the present invention is applied to a DRAM memory cell structure of a capacitor over bit-line. In this embodiment, the invention is applied to a DRAM memory cell structure of a capacitor under bit-line in which bit lines are disposed above a memory capacitor. FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view for partly showing the structure of a memory part of a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 5, and FIGS. 7A through 7C are cross-sectional views for showing procedures in a method for fabricating a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 5. The structure of and the fabrication method for the semiconductor memory of this embodiment will now be successively described. Although the structure of the memory part alone is shown in each drawing referred to in this embodiment, the semiconductor memory of this embodiment is an embedded device in which a logic circuit element is provided in a logic circuit part not shown as in Embodiment 1. However, the structure of the logic circuit part is not shown because it is not directly concerned with the essence of the invention.

As shown in FIG. 6, the memory part of this embodiment includes, similarly to that of Embodiment 3, a local interconnect **24** of polysilicon formed on an isolation insulating film **11** instead of the local interconnect **21b** of the W/Ti film of Embodiment 1, and a lower dummy cell plug **20c** in contact with the local interconnect **24** and a lower interconnect plug **20d** in contact with the local interconnect **24** are formed through a first interlayer insulating film **18**.

Also, in this embodiment, a memory capacitor **MC** and a dummy cell are provided on the first interlayer insulating film **18**, a dummy lower electrode **33b** (and the dummy lower barrier metal **32b**) is directly connected to the lower dummy cell plug **20c** and a first Cu interconnect **42** is directly connected to the lower interconnect plug **20d**. The local interconnect **24** is formed from the same polysilicon film as that used for forming a gate electrode **15**.

Furthermore, an upper bit line plug **51** in contact with the bit line plug **20b** through a second interlayer insulating film **22**; an insulating sidewall **52** covering the side face of the upper bit line plug **51**; a connection conductor film **37** of TiAlN covering the top face and the side face of an upper barrier metal **36** and the side faces of a Pt film **35** and a BST film **34**; and a bit line **53** of a Cu film buried in a third interlayer insulating film **41** are provided on a bit line plug **20b**. In other words, this semiconductor memory has the DRAM memory cell structure of the capacitor under bit-line in which the bit lines are provided above the memory capacitor **MC**. The connection conductor film **37** is disposed between the side faces of the upper barrier metal **36**, the Pt film **35** and the BST film **34** and the insulating sidewall **52**.

The other members shown in FIG. 6 are the same as those shown in FIG. 1A, and like reference numerals used in FIG. 1A are used to refer to these members.

In this embodiment, the upper electrode **35a** and the first Cu interconnect **42** are

electrically connected to each other through the connection conductor film 37, the dummy lower electrode 33b, the dummy lower barrier metal 32b, the dummy cell plug 30b, the lower dummy cell plug 20c, the local interconnect 24 and the lower interconnect plug 20d. Also in this embodiment, there is no need to form a contact hole above the Pt film 35 used for forming the upper electrode 35a (and the upper barrier metal 36) through the third interlayer insulating film 41. Accordingly, in the structure of the capacitor under bit-line, the characteristic degradation of the capacitor insulating film 34a can be prevented and no dedicated facilities for the memory cell formation are necessary similarly to Embodiment 1.

Next, the procedures for fabricating the semiconductor memory of this embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 7A through 7C.

In the procedure shown in FIG. 7A, the following processing is performed: First, an isolation insulating film 11 surrounding an active region is formed in a p-type Si substrate 10, and a memory cell transistor TR composed of a source region 12, a drain region 13, a gate insulating film 14, a gate electrode 15 and an insulating sidewall 16 is formed on the active region. This memory cell transistor TR is formed through known procedures using known techniques such as the thermal oxidation, the polysilicon film formation, the patterning and the ion injection. At this point, a local interconnect 24 of polysilicon is formed on the isolation insulating film 11 simultaneously with the gate electrode 15.

Next, after depositing a BPSG film on the substrate having the memory cell transistor TR, the BPSG film is subjected to the annealing and the planarization by the CMP (chemical mechanical polishing), so as to form a first interlayer insulating film 18. Then, contact holes reaching the source region 12, the drain region 13 and two portions of the local interconnect 24 are formed through the first interlayer insulating film 18. Thereafter, an n-type polysilicon film is formed within the contact holes and on the first

interlayer insulating film **18** and the polysilicon film is planarized by the CMP, so as to fill the contact holes with the polysilicon film. Thus, a lower memory cell plug **20a**, a bit line plug **20b**, a lower dummy cell plug **20c** and a lower interconnect plug **20d** are formed.

Then, a TiAlN film with a thickness of approximately 6 nm and a Pt film with a thickness of approximately 50 nm are successively deposited on the first interlayer insulating film **18**. The TiAlN film and the Pt film are patterned, so as to form, on the first interlayer insulating film **18**, a lower barrier metal **32a** connected to the lower memory cell plug **20a** and a lower electrode **33a** of Pt formed thereon, and a dummy lower barrier metal **32b** connected to the lower dummy cell plug **20b** and a dummy lower electrode **33b** formed thereon. In patterning the Pt film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining high etching selectivity against the underlying TiAlN film, and in patterning the TiAlN film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining etching selectivity sufficiently high for avoiding etching the underlying lower memory cell plug **20a** of polysilicon.

Next, a BST ((BaSr)TiO₃) film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm, a Pt film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm, a TiAlN film with a thickness of approximately 6 nm and an NSG film are successively deposited so as to cover the second interlayer insulating film **22**, the lower electrode **33a** and the dummy lower electrode **33b**. Thereafter, the NSG film is patterned into a hard mask (not shown), and the TiAlN film, the Pt film and the BST film are successively patterned by dry etching using the hard mask, so as to form a BST film **34** including a capacitor insulating film **34a** and a capacitor insulating film extension **34b**, a Pt film **35** including an upper electrode **35a** and an upper electrode extension **35b**, and an upper barrier metal **36** covering the Pt film **35**. At this point, portions of the BST film, the Pt film, the TiAlN film and the NSG film positioned above the bit line plug **20b** are removed so as to form an opening **59**. Thereafter, the

NSG film is selectively removed by using, for example, a diluted hydrofluoric acid solution.

Subsequently, after forming, for example, a TiAlN film with a thickness of 30 nm on the substrate, the TiAlN film is patterned by using a resist mask into a connection conductor film 37. At this point, the connection conductor film 37 covers the top face of the upper barrier metal 36, the wall of the opening 59 and the side faces of the upper barrier metal 36, the Pt film 35, the BST film 34, the lower electrode 33a and the dummy lower electrode 33b in an effective memory cell region **Rec** and a dummy cell region **Rdc** on the substrate, and also covers a part of the first interlayer insulating film 18. Thus, the connection conductor film 37 is in contact with the side faces of the upper electrode extension 35b and the dummy lower electrode 33b, and hence, the upper electrode extension 35b and the dummy lower electrode 33b are electrically connected to each other.

Next, in the procedure shown in FIG. 7B, after depositing a second interlayer insulating film 22, the second interlayer insulating film 22 is planarized by the CMP. Then, a contact hole 60 reaching the bit line plug 20b is formed through the second interlayer insulating film 22 and the connection conductor film 37. At this point, the contact hole 60 has a diameter sufficiently smaller than the inner diameter of the connection conductor film formed on the wall of the opening 59 in the procedure of FIG. 7A. Thereafter, after depositing a rather thin insulating film on the substrate, the insulating film is subjected to anisotropic etching, so as to form an insulating sidewall 52 on the wall of the contact hole 60. Then, a trench in contact with the lower interconnect plug 20d is formed through the second interlayer insulating film 22. A Cu film is deposited and subjected to the CMP, so as to fill the contact hole 60 and the trench above the lower interconnect plug 20d with the Cu film. Thus, an upper bit line plug 51 and a Cu interconnect 42 are formed.

Thereafter, a third interlayer insulating film 41 is deposited and planarized, a contact hole and a trench in contact with the upper bit line plug 51 are formed through the third interlayer insulating film 41, and the contact hole and the trench are filled with a Cu film, so as to form a bit line 53 (by the dual damascene method). As a result, the memory cell structure shown in FIG. 6 can be obtained.

In the fabrication method of this embodiment, a procedure for forming a contact hole above the Pt film 35 used for forming the upper electrode 35a (and the upper barrier metal 36) through the second interlayer insulating film 22 can be avoided. Therefore, similarly to the fabrication method of Embodiment 1, the characteristic degradation of the capacitor insulating film 34a derived from the exposure to a reducing atmosphere can be definitely suppressed.

Although the upper electrode 35a and the lower electrode 33a are made from Pt and the upper barrier metal 36 and the connection conductor film 37 are made from TiAlN in this embodiment, these members may be made from other conducting materials with oxidation resistance. Also, although the capacitor insulating film 34a is made from BST, another high- κ film material may be used instead. In particular, in the case where a dielectric film having the perovskite structure represented by ABO_3 is used, oxygen atoms can be easily lost through reduction, and hence, the present invention can be very effective in such a case.

Furthermore, it goes without saying that the present invention is applicable not only to an embedded device as in this embodiment but also to any semiconductor memory including a capacitor using a metal electrode, such as a generally used DRAM or FeRAM.

EMBODIMENT 6

In Embodiment 1, the dummy lower barrier metal 32b and the dummy lower electrode 33b are formed. In this embodiment, in stead of forming these members, the

connection conductor film **37** is in contact with the dummy cell plug **30b** so that the upper electrode **35a** and the dummy cell plug **30b** can be electrically connected to each other.

FIGS. **8A** and **8B** are respectively a cross-sectional view and a plan view for partly showing the structure of a memory part of a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 6. Although the structure of the memory part alone is shown in each drawing referred to in this embodiment, the semiconductor memory of this embodiment is an embedded device in which a logic circuit element is provided in a logic circuit part not shown. However, the structure of the logic circuit element is not shown because it is not directly concerned with the essence of the invention.

As shown in FIG. **8A**, the structure of the memory part of this embodiment is different from that of Embodiment 1 in that the dummy lower barrier metal **32b** and the dummy lower electrode **33b** are not provided in the dummy cell region **Rdc**. Furthermore, the capacitor insulating film extension **34b** extending from the effective memory cell region **Rec** toward the dummy cell region **Rdc**, the upper electrode extension **35b** covering the capacitor insulating film extension **34b** and the upper barrier metal **36** are provided so as to partly expose the dummy cell plug **30b**. The connection conductor film **37** is formed over the top and side faces of the upper barrier metal **36**, the side faces of the upper electrode extension **35b** and the capacitor insulating film extension **34b** and at least a part of the dummy cell plug **30b**.

In other words, while the connection conductor film **37**, the dummy lower electrode **33b** and the dummy lower barrier metal **32b** are provided for electrically connecting the upper electrode extension **35b** and the dummy cell plug **30b** to each other in Embodiment 1, the dummy cell plug **30b** is directly in contact with the connection conductor film **37** in this embodiment.

The capacitor insulating film extension **34b**, the upper electrode extension **35b**

covering the capacitor insulating film extension **34b** and the upper barrier metal **36** may be formed so as to partly expose the dummy cell plug **30b** or so as to completely expose the dummy cell plug **30b**. In the case where the dummy cell plug **30b** is completely exposed, the connection conductor film **37** is formed so as not to be electrically connected to the lower electrode **33a** and the lower barrier metal **32a** and to cover at least a part of the dummy cell plug **30b**. In other words, the connection conductor film **37** is electrically connected to the dummy cell plug **30b** while being insulated from the lower electrode **33a**.

As shown in FIG. **8B**, the Pt film **35** used for forming the upper electrode **35a** (and the upper barrier metal **36**) is shared between a large number of memory cells, and a large number of lower electrodes **33a** (and lower barrier metals **32a**) are disposed below the Pt film **35**. The remaining structure and effect are the same as those described in Embodiment 1 and hence the description is omitted.

Next, a method for fabricating the memory cell of the semiconductor memory of this embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. **9A** through **9C**. FIG. **9A** through **9C** are cross-sectional views for showing procedures in the fabrication method of Embodiment 6.

In the procedure shown in FIG. **9A**, the following processing is performed: First, an isolation insulating film **11** surrounding an active region is formed in a p-type Si substrate **10**, and a memory cell transistor **TR** composed of a source region **12**, a drain region **13**, a gate insulating film **14**, a gate electrode **15** and an insulating sidewall **16** is formed on the active region. This memory cell transistor **TR** is formed through known procedures by using known techniques such as the thermal oxidation, the polysilicon film formation, the patterning and the ion injection.

Next, after depositing a BPSG film on the substrate having the memory cell transistor **TR**, the BPSG film is subjected to the annealing and the planarization by the

CMP (chemical mechanical polishing), so as to form a first interlayer insulating film 18. Then, contact holes reaching the source region 12 and the drain region 13 are formed through the first interlayer insulating film 18. Thereafter, an n-type polysilicon film is formed within the contact holes and on the first interlayer insulating film 18, and the polysilicon film is planarized by the CMP, so as to fill the contact holes with the polysilicon film. Thus, a lower memory cell plug 20a and a bit line plug 20b are formed.

Next, after depositing a W/Ti multilayer film on the first interlayer insulating film 18, the W/Ti multilayer film is patterned by the etching, so as to form a bit line 21a connected to the bit line plug 20b and a local interconnect 21b not connected to any other member but isolated at this stage. In patterning the W film, the etching end point of the W film is determined by detecting time when the surface of the Ti film is exposed, and in patterning the Ti film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining high etching selectivity against the first memory cell plug 20a of polysilicon.

Then, after depositing a plasma TEOS film on the substrate, the plasma TEOS film is planarized by the CMP (chemical mechanical polishing), so as to form a second interlayer insulating film 22. Furthermore, contact holes reaching the lower memory cell plug 20a and two portions of the local interconnect 21b are formed through the second interlayer insulating film 22. After forming a W film within the contact holes, the W film is planarized by the CMP, so as to fill the contact holes with the W film. Thus, an upper memory cell plug 30a connected to the lower memory cell plug 20a, and a dummy cell plug 30b and an interconnect plug 30c respectively in contact with the two portions of the local interconnect 21b are formed.

Next, in the procedure shown in FIG. 9B, a TiAlN film with a thickness of approximately 6 nm and a Pt film with a thickness of approximately 50 nm are successively deposited on the second interlayer insulating film 22. The TiAlN film and

the Pt film are patterned, so as to form, on the second interlayer insulating film 22, a lower barrier metal 32a connected to the upper memory cell plug 30a and a lower electrode 33a of Pt formed thereon. In patterning the Pt film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining high etching selectivity against the underlying TiAlN film, and in patterning the TiAlN film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining etching selectivity sufficiently high for avoiding etching the underlying upper memory cell plug 30a of W.

Thereafter, a BST ((BaSr)TiO₃) film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm, a Pt film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm, a TiAlN film with a thickness of approximately 6 nm and an NSG film are successively deposited so as to cover the second interlayer insulating film 22 and the lower electrode 33a. After patterning the NSG film into a hard mask 38, the TiAlN film, the Pt film and the BST film are successively patterned by the dry etching using the hard mask 38, so as to form an upper barrier metal 36 covering the effective memory cell region **Rec** and the dummy cell region **Rdc**, a Pt film 35 including an upper electrode 35a and an upper electrode extension 35b and a BST film 34 including a capacitor insulating film 34a and a capacitor insulating film extension 34b. At this point, although the upper barrier metal 36, the upper electrode 35a and the upper electrode extension 34b are patterned so as to substantially completely cover the dummy cell plug 30b in Embodiment 1, they are patterned so as to expose at least a part of the dummy cell plug 30b in this embodiment. Thereafter, the hard mask 38 is selectively removed by using, for example, a diluted hydrofluoric acid solution.

Subsequently, in the procedure shown in FIG. 9C, for example, a TiAlN film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm is formed on the substrate, and the TiAlN film is patterned by using a resist mask, so as to form a connection conductor film 37. At this point, the connection conductor film 37 covers the top face of the upper barrier metal 36 in the effective memory cell region **Rec** and the dummy cell region **Rdc** on the substrate,

covers the side faces of the upper barrier metal **36**, the upper electrode extension **35b** and the capacitor insulating film extension **34b** on the cross-sections in the dummy cell region **Rdc**, and covers at least a part of the top face of the dummy cell plug **30b**.

Thereafter, a third interlayer insulating film **41** is deposited and planarized, a
5 trench in contact with the interconnect plug **30c** is formed through the third interlayer insulating film **41**, and a Cu interconnect **42** is buried in the trench (by the damascene method). Thus, the memory cell having the cross-sectional structure shown in FIG. **8A** can be obtained.

In the fabrication method of this embodiment, a procedure for forming a contact
10 hole above the Pt film **35** (and the upper barrier metal **36**) through the third interlayer insulating film **41** and the connection conductor film **37** can be avoided without adding a new procedure to the conventional process. Accordingly, similarly to Embodiment 1, the characteristic degradation of the capacitor insulating film **34a** derived from the exposure to a reducing atmosphere can be definitely suppressed without increasing the number of
15 procedures.

Furthermore, since the top face and the side face of the upper barrier metal **36** and the side face of the upper electrode extension **35b** can be covered with the connection conductor film **37** formed as one layer, a definite connection structure can be obtained. Also, since the whole top face of the upper barrier metal **36** is covered with the connection
20 conductor film **37**, the invasion of a reducing atmosphere can be suppressed.

In addition, since there is no need to provide a dummy lower electrode in this embodiment, the area occupied by the memory part can be advantageously reduced as compared with that of Embodiment 1.

The procedure for forming the Cu interconnect **42** corresponds to a conventional
25 procedure for forming a plug to an upper electrode, and the local interconnect **21b** and the

interconnect contact **30c** can be formed by utilizing the procedures for forming the memory cell.

Although the upper electrode **35a** and the lower electrode **33a** are made from Pt and the upper barrier metal **36** and the connection conductor film **37** are made from TiAlN in this embodiment, these members may be made from other conducting materials with oxidation resistance. Also, although the capacitor insulating film **34a** is made from BST, another high- κ film material may be used instead. In particular, in the case where a dielectric film with the perovskite structure represented by ABO_3 is used, oxygen atoms can be easily lost through reduction, and hence, the present invention can be very effective in such a case.

Furthermore, it goes without saying that the present invention is applicable not only to an embedded device as in this embodiment but also to any semiconductor memory including a capacitor using a metal electrode, such as a generally used DRAM or FeRAM.

In this embodiment, the connection conductor film **37** is in contact with the dummy cell plug **30b** without forming the dummy lower electrode **33b** and the dummy lower barrier metal **32b**, but it goes without saying that the connection conductor film **37** may be in contact with the dummy cell plug **30b** with the dummy lower electrode **33b** and the dummy lower barrier metal **32b** formed.

Also, in this embodiment, the connection conductor film **37** is connected to the Cu interconnect **42** through the dummy cell plug **30b**, the local interconnect **21b** and the interconnect plug **30c**, which corresponds to an exemplified application of the connection of Embodiment 1. According to the invention, the connection of Embodiment 3, 4 or 5 may be applied to this embodiment instead. In the case where, for example, the connection of Embodiment 5 is applied, the connection conductor film **37** is formed on the first interlayer insulating film **18** so as to be in contact with at least a part of the lower

dummy cell plug 20c.

EMBODIMENT 7

In Embodiment 7, a conducting sidewall is formed on the side faces of the upper electrode extension 35b and the capacitor insulating film extension 34b of Embodiment 6 instead of forming the connection conductor film 37.

FIGS. 10A and 10B are respectively a cross-sectional view for partly showing the structure of a memory part and a plan view for showing an upper electrode and a conducting sidewall included in a semiconductor memory according to Embodiment 7. In each of the drawings referred to in this embodiment, the structure of the memory part alone is shown, but the semiconductor memory of this embodiment is an embedded device in which a logic circuit element is provided in a logic circuit part not shown. However, the structure of the logic circuit part is not shown because it is not directly concerned with the essence of the invention.

As shown in FIG. 10A, the structure of a memory cell of a DRAM, that is, the semiconductor memory of this embodiment, is different from that of Embodiment 6 in that a hard mask 43 is formed on the upper barrier metal 36, and that a conducting sidewall 40 of TiAlN is formed on the side faces of the hard mask 43, the upper barrier metal 36, the upper electrode extension 35b and the capacitor insulating film extension 34b so as to be in contact with at least a part of the top face of the dummy cell plug 30b. The conducting sidewall 40 entirely surrounds, as shown in FIG. 10B, the Pt film 35 and the BST film 34. In other words, the conducting sidewall 40 electrically connects the upper electrode extension 35b and the dummy cell plug 30b to each other. The remaining structure and effect are the same as those described in Embodiment 6 and hence the description is omitted.

Now, a method for fabricating the memory cell of the semiconductor memory of

this embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 11A through 11C. FIGS. 11A through 11C are cross-sectional views for showing procedures in the method for fabricating a semiconductor memory of this embodiment.

In the procedure shown in FIG. 11A, the following processing is performed:

5 First, an isolation insulating film 11 surrounding an active region is formed in a p-type Si substrate 10, and a memory cell transistor TR composed of a source region 12, a drain region 13, a gate insulating film 14, a gate electrode 15 and an insulating sidewall 16 is formed on the active region. This memory cell transistor TR is formed through known procedures using known techniques such as the thermal oxidation, the polysilicon film
10 formation, the patterning and the ion injection.

Next, after depositing a BPSG film on the substrate having the memory cell transistor, the BPSG film is subjected to the annealing and the planarization by the CMP (chemical mechanical polishing), so as to form a first interlayer insulating film 18. Furthermore, contact holes reaching the source region 12 and the drain region 13 are
15 formed through the first interlayer insulating film 18. Then, an n-type polysilicon film is formed within the contact holes and on the first interlayer insulating film 18, and the polysilicon film is planarized by the CMP so as to fill the contact holes with the polysilicon film. Thus, a lower memory cell plug 20a and a bit line plug 20b are formed.

Then, after depositing a W/Ti multilayer film on the first interlayer insulating film
20 18, the W/Ti multilayer film is patterned by the etching, so as to form a bit line 21a connected to the bit line plug 20b and a local interconnect 21b not connected to any other member but isolated at this stage. In patterning the W film, the etching end point of the W film is determined by detecting time when the surface of the Ti film is exposed, and in patterning the Ti film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining high etching
25 selectivity against the lower memory cell plug 20a of polysilicon.

Next, after depositing a plasma TEOS film on the substrate, the plasma TEOS film is planarized by the CMP (chemical mechanical polishing), so as to form a second interlayer insulating film 22. Furthermore, contact holes reaching the lower memory cell plug 20a and two portions of the local interconnect 21b are formed through the second interlayer insulating film 22. Thereafter, a W/TiN/Ti film is formed within the contact holes and planarized by the CMP, so as to fill the contact holes with the W/TiN/Ti film. Thus, an upper memory cell plug 30a connected to the lower memory cell plug 20a, and a dummy cell plug 30b and an interconnect plug 30c respectively connected to the two portions of the local interconnect 21b are formed.

Subsequently, in the procedure shown in FIG. 11B, a TiAlN film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm and a Pt film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm are successively deposited on the second interlayer insulating film 22. Then, the TiAlN film and the Pt film are patterned, so as to form, on the second interlayer insulating film 22, a lower barrier metal 32a connected to the upper memory cell plug 30a and a lower electrode 33a of Pt formed thereon. In patterning the Pt film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining high etching selectivity against the underlying TiAlN film, and in patterning the TiAlN film, the etching is performed under conditions for attaining etching selectivity sufficiently high for avoiding etching the underlying upper memory cell plug 30a of W.

Next, a BST ((BaSr)TiO₃) film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm, a Pt film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm, a TiAlN film with a thickness of approximately 30 nm and a SiO₂ film are successively deposited so as to cover the second interlayer insulating film 22 and the lower electrode 33a. Thereafter, the SiO₂ film is patterned into a hard mask 43, and the TiAlN film, the Pt film and the BST film are successively patterned by the dry etching using the hard mask 43. Thus, an upper barrier metal 36

covering the effective memory cell region **Rec** and the dummy cell region **Rdc**, a Pt film **35** including an upper electrode **35a** and an upper electrode extension **35b**, and a BST film **34** including a capacitor insulating film **34a** and a capacitor insulating film extension **34b** are formed. At this point, while the upper barrier metal **36**, the upper electrode **35a** and the upper electrode extension **34b** are patterned so as to completely cover the dummy cell plug **30b** in Embodiment 1, they are patterned so as to expose at least a part of the dummy cell plug **30b** in this embodiment.

Subsequently, in the procedure shown in FIG. **11C**, a TiAlN film, that is, a conductor film, with a thickness of approximately 50 nm is deposited on the substrate, and the TiAlN film is etched back by, for example, the anisotropic dry etching. Thus, a conducting sidewall **40** is formed so as to cover the side faces of the hard mask **43**, the upper barrier metal **36**, the Pt film **35** and the BST film **34** as shown in the cross-sectional view of FIG. **11C**.

Furthermore, a third interlayer insulating film **41** is deposited and planarized, a trench in contact with the interconnect plug **30c** is formed through the third interlayer insulating film **41** and a Cu interconnect **42** is buried within the trench (by the damascene method). Thus, the memory cell having the cross-sectional structure as shown in FIG. **10A** can be obtained.

In the fabrication method of this embodiment, a procedure for forming a contact hole above the Pt film **35** (and the upper barrier metal **36**) through the third interlayer insulating film **41** and the hard mask **43** can be avoided without increasing the number of photolithography procedures in the conventional process. Accordingly, similarly to the fabrication method of Embodiment 1, the characteristic degradation of the capacitor insulating film **34a** derived from the exposure to a reducing atmosphere can be definitely suppressed without increasing the number of procedures.

In addition, since there is no need to provide a dummy lower electrode in this embodiment, the area occupied by the memory part can be advantageously reduced as compared with that of Embodiment 1.

Although the upper electrode 35a and the lower electrode 33a are made from Pt and the upper barrier metal 36 is made from TiAlN in this embodiment, these members may be made from other conducting materials with oxidation resistance. Also, although the capacitor insulating film 34a is made from BST, another high- κ film material may be used instead. In particular, in the case where a dielectric film with the perovskite structure represented by ABO_3 is used, oxygen atoms can be easily lost through reduction, and hence, the present invention can be very effective in such a case.

Furthermore, it goes without saying that the present invention is applicable not only to an embedded device as in this embodiment but also to any semiconductor memory including a capacitor using a metal electrode, such as a generally used DRAM or FeRAM.

In this embodiment, the conducting sidewall 40 is in contact with the dummy cell plug 30b without forming the dummy lower electrode 33b and the dummy lower barrier metal 32b, but it goes without saying that the conducting sidewall 40 may be in contact with the dummy cell plug 30b with the dummy lower electrode 33b and the dummy lower barrier metal 32b formed.

Also, in this embodiment, the conducting sidewall 40 is connected to the Cu interconnect 42 through the dummy cell plug 31b, the local interconnect 21b and the interconnect plug 30c, which corresponds to an exemplified application of the connection of Embodiment 1. According to the invention, the connection of Embodiment 3, 4 or 5 may be applied to this embodiment instead. In the case where, for example, the connection of Embodiment 5 is applied, the conducting sidewall 40 is formed on the first interlayer insulating film 18 so as to be in contact with at least a part of the lower dummy

cell plug 20c.

OTHER EMBODIMENTS

Although the polysilicon film used for forming the gate line is used as the local interconnect in Embodiment 5, a structure similar to that of Embodiment 2 or 4 can be employed in the DRAM memory cell structure of the capacitor under bit-line as in Embodiment 5. Specifically, in the DRAM memory cell structure of the capacitor under bit-line, the local interconnect 23 made from a buried W film as shown in FIG. 3 or the local interconnect 25 made from an impurity diffusion layer as shown in FIG. 5 may be provided.

In each of the aforementioned embodiments, the application of this invention to an embedded semiconductor memory including both a DRAM and a logic circuit is described, which does not limit the invention but the invention can be applied to a generally used DRAM.

Also, the present invention is applicable to a semiconductor memory using a ferroelectric film as a capacitor insulating film, such as a FeRAM. Also in such application, the semiconductor memory may be a general memory or a memory/logic embedded device.

In each of Embodiments 1 through 5 and 7, the connection conductor film 37 completely covers the side faces of the Pt film 35 and the BST film 34 entirely around the Pt film 35 as shown in FIG. 1B. Therefore, the connection conductor film 37 can remarkably exhibit a function as a barrier layer for definitely preventing mixture of an impurity into the capacitor insulating film 34a. In this invention, however, the connection conductor film 37 need not always completely cover the side faces of the Pt film 35 and the BST film 34 entirely around the Pt film 35.

Also in each of Embodiments 2 through 5, the connection conductor film 37 is

entirely covers the top face of the upper barrier metal **36** as shown in FIG. **1B**. Therefore, the connection conductor film **37** can definitely prevent invasion of hydrogen and the like into the capacitor insulating film **34a**. In this invention, however, the connection conductor film **37** need not always entirely cover the top face of the barrier metal **36**.

5 It is noted that a dummy conducting member includes at least the dummy lower electrode **33b** and the dummy cell plug **30b** in Embodiments 1, 3, 4 and 5, includes at least the local interconnect **23** in Embodiment 2, and includes at least the dummy cell plug **30b** in Embodiments 6 and 7.

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